

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

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NSAE-00 EB-07 PRS-01 AID-05 IGA-02 SIL-01 LAB-04

COME-00 OPIC-03 DODE-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-05

INRE-00 /068 W

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O R 031125Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO DEPT OF TREASURY

SECSTATE WASHDC 4027

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 0573

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (SIMON, WILLIAM E)

SUBJ: COMMENTS ON US-UAE JOINT STATEMENT FOR SIMON VISIT

1. I SPENT TWO HOURS WITH SAIF GHUBBASH THIS MORNING WORKING OUT LANGUAGE OF JOINT STATEMENT. AT MY STRONG URGING, GHUBBASH ACCEPTED USING WASHINGTON DRAFT AS BASIS FOR TEXT; CONSEQUENTLY MUCH OF OUR LANGUAGE IS RETAINED. FOLLOWING IS EXPLANATION FOR CHANGES THAT UAEG HAS INSITED ON.

2. CHANGES IN OPENING PARA RELATE TO PROPER NAMES, TITLES, AND ORDER OF PRECEDENCE. IF SUWAIDI DOES NOT TURN UP HIS NAME WILL OF CORSE HAVE TO BE DELETED.

3. RE PARA ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, GHUBBASH SAID UAE WOULD NOT WISH TO OVERDRAMATIZE POSSIBILITIES. HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT PHRASE "MAJOR EXPANSION". HE ALSO DID NOT SEE WHY WE SHOULD HAVE LANGUAGE THAT SEEMED TO LIMIT SCOPE OF OUR FUTURE PORJECTS BY SAYING WHAT THEY ARE GEARED TO. I AGREE WITH HIM ON THIS POINT, AS SOME OF THINGS WE HAVE IN MIND ARE NOT RELATED TO "INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK".

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4. IN VIEW OF LENGTHY PARA ON WHAT US IS DOING VIS-A-VIS

LDCS, GHUBBASH SAID THERE SHOULD ALSO BE PARA ON WHAT UAE IS DOING. I TOLD HIM I SAW NO PROBLEM EITHER WITH INCLUSION SUCH PARA OR WITH HIS SUGGESTED LANGUAGE FOR IT.

5. GHUBBASH INITIALLY WANTED TO LEAVE IT AT JUST THESE TWO PARAS, WITH NO MENTION ABOUT EARMARKED SUM OR COOPERATIVE EFFORTS. I SAID SECRETARY SIMON CONSIDERED THIS SUBJECT HIGHLY IMPORTANT PART OF HIS OVERALL OBJECTIVE HERE AND I DID NOT BELIEVE IT APPROPRIATE MERELY TO DESCRIBE OUR UNILATERAL POLICIES WITHOUT SOME MENTION OF COOPERATION OR COORDINATION BETWEEN US. GHUBBASH FINALLY AGREED TO INSERTION OF SUCH LANGUAGE BUT ADAMANTLY REJECTED ANY REFERENCE TO SPECIFIC MODALITIES OF COOPERATION. WE SPENT LONG TIME ON THIS POINT BUT I BELIEVE PARA TELEGRAPHED TO YOU IS AS MUCH AS UAEG IS GOING TO GIVE US.

6. UAEG DOES NOT WANT ANY MENTION OF TRADE TARGET AND WISHED LANGUAGE IN THIS PARA NOT TO GO BEYOND FACTUAL DESCRIPTION OF SITUATION AND REALISTIC APPRAISAL OF FUTURE POSSIBILITIES.

7. OUR DISCUSSION ON DESIRABILITY OF SIMPLE REFERENCE TO DIZKUSSION OF ENERGY MATTERS ALSO REVEALED SOME UNEXPECTED UAE SENSITIVITIES. GHUBBASH DID NOT WANT ANY REFERENCE TO CIEC DIALOGUE AND INITIALLY WANTED TO REFER TO DISCUSSION OF ENERGY ONLY IN BILATERAL TRADE TERMS, THIS POSITION APPARENTLY DICTATED BY UNWILLINGNESS TO HAVE ANY LANGUAGE APPEAR IN COMMUNIQUE WHICH MIGHT EVEN INDIRECTLY SUGGEST SECRETARY WAS TRYING TO WORK ON UAE BEHIND BACKS OF ITS OPEC COLLEAGUES WHO ARE REPRESENTED AT CIEC.

8. GENERAL COMMENT: ALTHOUGH TEXT HAS LOST SOME OF ITS MEAT, IT IS, AS SECRETARY DESIRED, JOINT STATEMENT, AND IT CONTAINS MUCH OF LANGUAGE IN ORIGINAL US DRAFT. THIS IS BETTER OUTCOME IN MY VIEW THAN HAVING SECRETARY MAKE STATEMENT ON HIS OWN WHICH IN ANY CASE WOULD HAVE TO HAVE DELETED FROM IT THOSE PASSAGES IN WHICH UAE WAS UNWILLING TO AGREE IN SUBSTANCE. I RECOMMEND WE ACCEPT TEXT AS IT STANDS AND NOT TRY TO ACHIEVE LAST-MINUTE CHANGES. THROUGHOUT CONVERSATION WITH GHUBBASH IT WAS CLEAR THAT THEY WISH TO BE EXTREMELY CAREFUL IN NOT CONVEYING IMPRESSION OF OVER-IDENTIFICATION WITH THE US. THIS IS VERY SENSITIVE NERVE WITH THIS GOVERNMENT. PRESSING ON IT TOO HARD
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WOULD NOT ONLY BE MISTAKE IN MY JUDGEMENT BUT COULD ALSO BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO OVERALL OBJECTIVES OF SECRETARY'S VISIT.
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